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SIPDIS

STATE FOR PMAT. STATE PLEASE PASS TO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, JOINT STAFF, OSD/POLICY, USEUCOM, USSTRATCOM, USPACOM, USTRANSCOM, USCENCOM, USCOCOM, AND USSOUTHCOM
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2013

TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [IT](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [IT](#) [IZ](#) [IZMARR](#) [IRAQI](#) [FREEDOM](#)

SUBJECT: TFI201: ITALIAN RESPONSE TO FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST

REF: STATE 93769

CLASSIFIED BY: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION EMIL SKODON FOR REASONS 1.5(B)(D)
)

1. (S) SUMMARY. EMBASSY CONVEYED REFTTEL POINTS TO GOI OFFICIALS AT THE MOD, MFA, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND PRESIDENT CIAMPI'S OFFICE ON APRIL 11. INITIAL RESPONSES TO OUR FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST WERE POSITIVE, BUT NOT YET DEFINITIVE. WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE GOI TO TAILOR A COMPONENT OF THE PROPOSAL CRAFTED BY THE GOI'S IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE TO MORE PRECISELY MEET THE FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH INCLUDES MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

2. (S) DEFMIN MARTINO'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR FRANCESCO TRUPIANO SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST WITH MARTINO AND WITH THE ITALIAN DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF (IDGS), WHICH IS ALREADY PREPARING A PACKAGE OF MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARTINO'S AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL. THE MFA'S TASK FORCE IS COORDINATING ALL OTHER ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS, HE EXPLAINED, BUT THE MILITARY PACKAGE IS BEING ASSEMBLED SEPARATELY BY MOD BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES STILL TIED TO ITALIAN MILITARY PARTICIPATION. "NO ONE WILL OPPOSE SENDING MEDICINE OR FOOD BUT EVEN ONE MILITARY
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ENGINEER COULD CAUSE OBJECTIONS," HE SAID. THE MFA TASK FORCE COULD GET STARTED ON THE CIVILIAN HOSPITAL REQUEST WHILE THE MOD DEALS WITH THE TRICKIER MILITARY PROTECTION ASPECT, TRUPIANO SUGGESTED. PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OR REVIEW WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTION BUT WOULD LIKELY BE NEEDED BEFORE ITALIAN SECURITY FORCES COULD BE SENT IN, ACCORDING TO TRUPIANO.

3. (S) WE ALSO MET WITH FRANCESCO TALO, OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE, TO AMPLIFY REFTTEL REQUEST. TALO SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS PRESSING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS WHILE APPEALING TO ITALIANS EAGER TO ASSIST IN THE POST-CONFLICT PHASE. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, HE WAS UNPREPARED TO COMMENT, PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION WITHIN THE PM'S OFFICE.

4. (S) IN ADDITION, WE BRIEFED THE REQUEST TO STEFANO STEFANINI, DEPUTY DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO PRESIDENT CIAMPI. STEFANINI CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED THAT CIAMPI WOULD WELCOME A POSITIVE RESPONSE BY THE GOI TO OUR REQUEST, AND WOULD PERCEIVE NO/NO CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLES TO DEPLOYMENT OF ITALIAN TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF SUCH A HUMANITARIAN MISSION.

5. (S) IN A MEETING WITH ECMIN, MFA DG FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (AND OFFICIAL COORDINATOR OF THE MFA'S TASK FORCE FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION) ANTONIO BADINI ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED THE FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST. IT CLEARLY FITS WITHIN THE PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE TASK FORCE AND A THREE-PART PACKAGE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR APPROVAL. (NOTE: SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MEETING, DEPUTY TASK FORCE COORDINATOR LUIGI MACCOTTA NOTIFIED US THAT THE COUNCIL
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APPROVED THE PACKAGE THIS AFTERNOON. END NOTE.) THE FIRST COMPONENT OF THE PACKAGE CONSISTS OF AN INTEGRATED 1,000 PERSON TEAM DIVIDED BETWEEN SPECIALISTS IN HEALTH CARE AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO PROTECT THE TEAM AND TO HELP STABILIZE THE LOCAL SITUATION. THE MFA PACKAGE ALSO PROPOSES PLACING ITALIAN EXPERTS WITH ORHA IN NASCENT IRAQI MINISTRIES TO ASSIST WITH INSTITUTION (RE)BUILDING. THE FINAL COMPONENT CONSISTS OF ATTACHING, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, A SENIOR ITALIAN DIPLOMAT AND GENERAL TO GENERAL GARNER'S OPERATION TO FACILITATE COORDINATION WITH THE GOI. (FURTHER DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL.)

6. (S) COMMENT: THE FIRST COMPONENT OF THE COUNCIL-APPROVED PACKAGE COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR FIELD HOSPITAL REQUEST. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE GOI TO TAILOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEET THE SPECIFIC

NEEDS WE'VE IDENTIFIED AND TO STRESS THE KEY REQUIREMENTS:
THAT THE MEDICAL UNIT BE SELF-SUSTAINING, SELF-PROTECTING,
UNDER CENTCOM COMMAND, AND AVAILABLE FOR DEPLOYMENT RIGHT NOW.

17. (S) COMMENT CONTINUED: WE BELIEVE THE GOI WILL DO ALL IT
CAN TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS REQUEST. PM BERLUSCONI IS

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ACTION SS-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	MED-07	NSAE-00	PM-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/007W				

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9237
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
USSTRATCOM OFFUTT AFB NE IMMEDIATE
USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL//J3/J5/JA// IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
HQ EUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3-CI/ECJ23-H// IMMEDIATE
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECCC// IMMEDIATE
CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J00// IMMEDIATE
CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//SCCC// IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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FEELING VINDICATED IN HIS SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BUSH AND WANTS
TO FREE HIMSELF FROM THE STRAIGHTJACKET OF DOMESTIC
OPPOSITION AND TAKE A MORE ACTIVE STANCE "ON THE GROUND."
DEPLOYMENT OF A MEDICAL UNIT, INTO A NON-COMBAT (IF NOT FULLY
PERMISSIVE) ENVIRONMENT, TO TREAT IRAQI CIVILIANS, COULD DRAW
THE READY CONSENSUS OF THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. A MIXED
CIVILIAN-MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IS LIKELY TO DRAW LARGER (AND
FASTER) CONSENSUS FROM THE PARLIAMENT AS WELL. WHILE WE WILL
CONTINUE TO BUILD THE HUMANITARIAN CASE WITH ALL ITALIAN
INSTITUTIONS FOR A RAPID RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, ADDRESSEES
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE FASTEST POSSIBLE ITALIAN RESPONSE
MAY STILL BE SLOW BY USG STANDARDS. END COMMENT.

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